

REMARKS

Initially, applicant would like to thank Examiner Weinstein for granting an interview and for his time spent during the interview. Applicant would also like to thank Supervisory Examiner Kramer for attending the interview and for his input during the interview.

The application has been amended as discussed at the interview to place the application in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Claims 1-14 were previously pending in the application. Claim 2 is canceled and new claim 15 is added. Therefore, claims 1 and 3-15 are presented for consideration.

Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by SCHECHTER 6,223,846. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is amended as discussed at the interview and recites that the inlet valve is kept closed during at least a part of an intake stroke somewhere along a path of said piston from an upper dead point to a lower dead point. Support for this feature can be found at least on page 7, lines 12-15.

As discussed during the interview, although SCHECHTER varies the timing of the opening of his inlet valve, nevertheless, such variation is based on a late opening of the inlet valve to avoid discharge into the intake port. See column 19, lines 1-6.

In SCHECHTER, the inlet valve is closed at the upper dead point (i.e. at the transition from evacuation stroke to intake stroke) in order to be opened later during that stroke in order to utilize the residual air remaining at the end of the evacuation stroke for vehicle propulsion.

Thus, as pointed out during the interview, the recited method of operating the present invention and that of SCHECHTER are significantly different in that the recited method includes early closure of the inlet valve, while SCHECHTER has late opening of the inlet valve during the intake stroke.

As SCHECHTER does not disclose that which is recited in the claims and rather discloses an opposite control method having a different desired result, SCHECHTER does not anticipate the claims.

The analysis above regarding claim 1 is equally applicable to claim 14. The dependent claims are believed patentable at least for depending from an allowable independent claim.

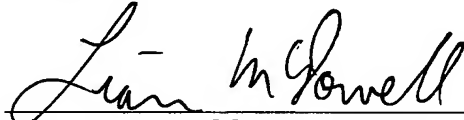
New claim 15 is added. Support for this claim can be found at least on page 8, lines 11-20.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, therefore, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Liam McDowell". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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